

REMOVAL EVALUATION SUMMARY

VENTRON/VELSICOL

DATE: September 6, 1990
OSC: N. Magriples

NPL
REGION II

Rich Puvogel
DRAFT REPORT
FOR AGENCY REVIEW ONLY
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DRAFT NO. _____

INCIDENT DESCRIPTION: Inactive processing facility and landfill

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The Ventron/Velsicol site (VVS), a former chemical processing facility, is located in Wood Ridge and Carlstadt Borough, Bergen County, within the Hackensack Meadowlands on the western bank of Berry's Creek. A mercury processing plant was in operation on site from 1929 until 1974 and left behind an estimated 160 tons of process waste. One of the two warehouse tenants currently occupying the site, operates a food distribution center.

MATERIALS:

On-site soil sampling identified elevated levels of mercury, lead, cadmium, nickel, arsenic and zinc. Off-site sampling of surface water identified mercury, cadmium and zinc. Mercury was detected in the groundwater and sediment.

PAST ACTIONS:

In October 1984, the NJDEP and the Responsible Parties signed an Administrative Consent Order (ACO) to conduct a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS). The first task, a literature search and background investigation, was completed. In August 1989, the Army Corp of Engineers Waterway Experiment Station researched the problems of mercury methylation and bioaccumulation. In September 1989, a contract to complete the remaining tasks of the RI/FS was awarded. The RI/FS is not expected to start until 1991. The site consists of two portions: the NPL site and the marsh/wetlands area.

Under a contract with the Hackensack Meadowlands Development Commission a water quality and bioaccumulation monitoring program of the Berry Creek Ecosystem is being conducted. The NJDEP has recently conducted an immediate emergency cleanup in a residential area north of the site that had mercury contaminated soil.

THREATS:

The potential human exposure pathways include: ingestion and direct contact with groundwater, surface water, soil sediment; ingestion of bioaccumulated contaminants in the food chain; and inhalation of volatilized contaminants or contaminants entrained in the air.

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Private wells used as a potable water supply exist within the vicinity of the site. There is a potential health threat from recreational use of surface water in which raw process waste was reported to have been discharged.

Based upon the available information and the remedial activities, the Ventron/Velsicol site is not removal eligible.

REFERENCES:

Department of Health and Human Services, U.S. Public Health Service, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, Health Assessment for Ventron/Velsicol, April 1989.

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, 1989 Status Report on the Hazardous Waste Management Program in New Jersey, October, 1989.

Telephone Conversation with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Remedial Project Manager, May 17, 1990.

Telephone Conversation with New Jersey Department of Protection, Case Manager, May 11, 1990, and June 15, 1990.